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BOROUGH OF POOLE.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

PORT MEDICAL OFFICER

On the Health of the Port of Poole

FOR THE YEAR

1955.

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PART II.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1955.

(acting as Port Health Authority)

Chairman:

Alderman D. A. HAYNES, J.P.

Vice-Chairman

Councillor F. V. CHAWSHAW.

Aldermen:

S.D.BALLAM
G.BRAVERY
J. BRIGHT J.P.,
A.B.HAYNES, J.P.

Councillors:

Mrs J.D.Coles.
R. C. Hart
Mrs.E.M.Hickinson J.P.,
L.J.Matchan
S.D.Pollard.
S.J.Stout.
H. Way.
Mrs. A. Willis

OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Clerk to the Port Health Authority

WILSON KENYON, Town Clerk.

Medical Officer of Health

JAMES HUTTON M.D., D.P.H.,

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

D.S.PARKEN M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Port Sanitary Inspector

ROBERT LEGGAT, F.S.I.A.

Deputy Port Sanitary Inspector

C. A. TRIM, Cert. R.S.I.

Rodent Officer

G.W.SKEGGS

Office Clerk:

MRS B. BURCHETT.

PREFACE

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, acting as the Port Health Authority.

I submit for your information and consideration my Annual Report as Port Medical Officer of Health for the year, 1955.

The report is made in accordance with Article 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations, 1935 and 1951. As a result of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1949, the Minister of Health has reviewed the form and scope of the Annual Reports of Medical Officer of Health and in Port Form 20 enclosed with Circular 33/52 dated 6th November, 1952, he prescribes the form and sequence which the reports should follow.

In presenting this report I have pleasure in taking the opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Harbour Master, Captain C.H. Horn, and the Officers of H.M. Customs for their ready co-operation and help during the year, and to the Port Sanitary Inspector, Mr.R.Leggat and his Deputy Mr.C.A.Trim, for their willing assistance and interest in the work.

Yours faithfully,

JAMES HUTTON,

Port Medical Officer of Health.

March, 1956.

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THE PORT OF POOLE

Constitution of the Port Health Authority

The Port was permanently constituted a Port Sanitary Authority by an order of the Local Government Board dated 12st September, 1887, and an amending order dated 27th February, 1909.

The Port Health Authority is the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough, acting by the Council.

Limits of Jurisdiction.

The present limits of jurisdiction were fixed in 1909, as follows:-

"The jurisdiction of the said Port Sanitary Authority shall extend to so much of the said Port of Poole as lies to the westward of a straight line drawn across the mouth of Poole Harbour from the easternmost point of North Haven to the easternmost point of South Haven; together with the waters of the said port within such limits, and to the place or places for the time being appointed as the Customs Boarding Station or Stations for such part of the said Port, and every other place for the time being appointed for the mooring or anchoring of ships for such part of the said Port under any regulations for the prevention of the spread of disease issued under the authority of the statutes in that behalf; and the watersides of the District of the said Port Sanitary Authority constituted as aforesaid, and the docks, basins, harbours, creeks, rivers, channels roads, bays and streams belonging to that part of the said Port for which such Authority is constituted as aforesaid".

Port Facilities.

Poole is chiefly a cargo port, the majority of the vessels being engaged in the coastal transport of coal, oil and petrol, though there is also a regular traffic in timber from continental countries. During the summer the port is the base for pleasure steamers operating between the local seaside resorts, but this is the only passenger traffic. Fishing is still carried on from the port, though only during the sprat season are landings heavy. The harbour is one of the great yachting centres of Britain, and the building, servicing and repair of yachts and other boats is one of the industries of the port.

The public quay accommodation consists of 3,000 feet frontage, i.e.

Hamworthy Quay	500 feet	at 15ft low water ordinary tide.
Town Quay	1000 feet	at 16ft " " " "
	1000 feet	at 15 to 10ft " " "
	500 feet	shallow berthing (for yachts)

There are also some 3,500 feet of private wharves, including 1,000 feet of new wharfing constructed in 1950 by the British Electricity Authority for the new power station, Hamworthy. All the public quays are serviced by railways. Unloading equipment consists of two 3-ton electric travelling cranes belonging to the Harbour Commissioners and four electric cranes and two steam cranes belonging to private firms. There are, in addition, two privately-owned coal transporters each capable of dealing with bewteen 1,000 and 1,200 tons of coal per day. Ship repairing facilities include seven yards capable of carrying out repairs to ships and yachts.

There is in the harbour an extensive area of safe anchorage. The depth of the water at the Harbour Bar is 13 feet at mean low water springs and 19 feet at mean high water springs and both flood and ebb tides run at about ¾ of a knot. The channels are kept dredged and ships drawing 16 feet can enter the Port at high tides.

The telegraph address of the Port Health Authority is registered as "Portelth Poole".

Address and telephone number of Medical Officer of Health:

Office. Public Health Department, Municipal Buildings, Poole; Poole 393.

Home. 23 Pearce Avenue, Parkstone, Dorset. Parkstone 4140.

x I. STAFF.

TABLE A.

Name of Officer.	Nature of Appointment.	Date of Appointment.	Qualifications and other Appointments held.
Wilson Kenyon.	Clerk to Port Health Authority.	31.5.33.	Solicitor; Town Clerk, Borough of Poole.
James Hutton.	Medical Officer of Health.	1.2.52.	M.D., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Poole. Poole Area Medical Officer, Dorset County Council.
James A.Sinclair. (Resigned 31.7.55)	Deputy Medical Officer.	29.9.42	M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Poole. Assistant County Medical Officer, Dorset County Council.
Douglas Stewart Parken.	Deputy Medical Officer of Health	19.12.55	M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Borough of Poole; Assistant County Medical Officer, Dorset County Council
Robert Leggat.	Port Sanitary Inspector and Authorised Officer.	16.4.46	Cert. San. Inspr.(R.S.I) Cert.Food Inspr. (R.S.I) Chief Sanitary Inspector, Borough of Poole.
Cecil A.Trim.	Deputy Port Sanitary Inspector and Authorised Officer	16.4.46.	Cert.San.Inspr.(R.S.I) Cert.Food Inspector. (R.S.I) Sanitary Inspector Borough of Poole.
G.W. Skeggs.	Rodent Officer.	21.3.55	Rodent Officer, Borough of Poole.
Mrs B.Burchett.	Office Clerk.	9.2.53	Clerk, Public Health Department, Borough of Poole.

Address and telephone number of Medical Officer of Health:
Office: Public Health Department, Municipal Buildings, Poole.
Poole. 393.
Home: 23, Pearce Avenue, Parkstone, Dorset. Parkstone 4140.

II. Amount of Shipping Entering the Port during the Year.

Table B.

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number inspected		Number of Ships reported as having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector	
Foreign Ports	x 455	253,058	-	154	Nil
Coastwise	919	315,608	-	44	Nil
Total	1374	568,666	-	198	Nil

x Does not include yachts.

III. Character of Shipping and Trade during the Year

Table C.

Passenger Traffic.
Number of passengers INWARDS - Nil
Number of passengers OUTWARDS - Nil
Cargo Traffic

Principal IMPORTS - Timber, coal, grain, animal feeding stuffs, fertilisers,
Principal EXPORTS - Barley, spent oxide, ball clay, coke, breeze.

Principal ports from which ships arrive
Dunkirk, Rouen, Rotterdam, Channel Isles, Antwerp, Hamburg, Dieppe, Ghent, Calais.
Timber from 18 Scandinavian and Baltic ports.

IV. Inland Barge Traffic
There is no inland barge traffic in the port.

x V. Water Supply.
1. Source of supply for the district and shipping.
The water supply for the port and shipping is that from the town mains provided by the Poole Waterworks Undertaking from hydrants on the quays. It is a softened, filtered and chlorinated water of high bacterial purity.

2. Reports of tests for contamination.
The supply was sampled every two or three days throughout the year and every sample was reported as "Class I - highly satisfactory". 9 samples of water supplies on ships using the port regularly were

taken during the year for bacteriological examination. 8 were reported as "Class I" and one as "Class 3". In the latter case the ship's tanks were cleaned and disinfected and subsequent samples were satisfactory.

3. Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes

Hydrants and hoses are cleansed and flushed and connections disinfected regularly by the Waterworks Undertaking and instructions have been issued that all hydrants and hoses must be cleansed and flushed before each use. All hydrants on the quays are in underground boxes. The Medical Inspector of the Ministry of Health, on his last visit to the Port, suggested that these be replaced by pillar or stand pipe hydrants. Representations to this effect have been made to the Poole Water Undertaking on a number of occasions but without success.

4. Number and sanitary condition of water boats, and power of control by the Authority.

Two small private water boats were in use in the harbour during the summer months for the supply of water to small yachts. Four samples of water obtained from the water boats during the season were reported as "Class I".

x VI. Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952

1. List of Infected Areas (Regulation 6)

The list of infected areas is revised weekly on receipt of the Ministry of Health's Record of Quarantinable Diseases and the revised list distributed immediately to the Port Sanitary Inspector, H.M. Customs Officers, the Senior Pilot and the Harbour Master.

2. Radio Messages.

(a) Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the district (Regulation 13)
Poole is not a radio transmitting port but if necessary messages can be transmitted through Nitron Radio, Isle of Wight.

(b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and acting thereon (Regulation 14(1)(a) and (2).
Messages are relayed from ships at sea direct to the Medical Officer of Health by telephone.

3. Notification otherwise than by radio. (Regulation 14(1) (b).

Duty pilots pass on to the Medical Officer of Health signals for the Port Health Authority received from ships approaching the harbour

Where advance notification is received by H.M.Customs Officer or the Harbour Master of the arrival of a ship from an infected area this information is sent immediately to the Medical Officer of Health, who will arrange for a Medical Officer to inspect the ship.

Vessels are boarded upon arrival by H.M. Customs Officers who

/provide

and collect the Maritime Declarations of Health and arrangements have been made for the Boarding Officers to contact the Medical Officer of Health immediately by telephone in the case of an inward vessel requiring special or immediate attention.

Advance messages are occasionally received from shipping agents in the port. The telegraphic address of the Medical Officer of Health is "Portelth, Poole". At the Port Health Office, Public Health Department, Municipal Buildings, Poole, messages can be received and the necessary action taken thereon at any time during the day or night.

Routine notifications of all ships arriving in the harbour are collected daily from the Harbour Master's office for the use of the Medical Officer of Health and Port Sanitary Inspectors.

4. Mooring Stations (Regulations 22 and 30).

A mooring station has been established at a point in the main channel, half way between Parkstone Shoal Light Buoy and Stakes Buoy, just clear of shipping. If so directed by the Port Medical Officer, the Southern end of the New Quay, Hamworthy can be used also..

5. Arrangements for dealing with Infectious Diseases.

(a) Hospital accommodation for persons suffering from infectious diseases (other than smallpox).
This is available at the Alderney Infectious Diseases Hospital, Poole. A full-time ambulance service of the Local Health Authority is available at all times at the Poole Ambulance Depot.

(b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts.
Arrangements have been made for surveillance and follow up of contacts to be carried out in accordance with Section 36 to 38 of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952. Infectious disease contacts proceeding home are provided with notification post-cards for use if required, and immediate notification sent to the Medical Officer of Health for the district to which they are proceeding.

(c) The cleansing and disinfection facilities (including steam disinfection and cleansing station) of the Local Authority are available to the Port Health Authority at all times for the cleansing snd disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles.

VII. Smallpox.

1. Name of Issolation Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent from the district.
Crabwood Smallpox Hospital, Nr.Winchester, Hants.

2. Arrangements for transport of such cases to that hospital.
Transport of smallpox cases would be carried out by the Ambulance Service of the Dorset County Council operating from the Poole Ambulance Depot.

The vaccinal state of the 13 ambulance personnel at this depot is that 2 were last vaccinated in 1955, 7 in 1953, 2 in 1952, one is excused further vaccination, and one has refused vaccination.

3. Names of smallpox consultants available.
Dr.George Chesney, Poole.

4. Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox.
Suspected material is sent to:
Dr. F.O.McCullum,
Virus Reference Laboratory,
Central Public Health Laboratory,
Colindale, LONDON N.W.9.
Tel: No. Colindale 6041.

x VIII Venereal Disease.

Facilities for diagnosis and treatment for seamen suffering from Venereal Diseases are provided at two clinics as follows:-
Poole General Hospital, Longfleet Road, Poole - Tuesdays 5 p.m. Wednesdays 10.30a.m. and Fridays 5.30p.m.
The Royal Victoria Hospital, Shelley Road, Boscombe - Wednesdays and Saturdays, 4.30 p.m.

During inspections of ships inquiries are made as to the presence of veneral disease among seamen and information as to the facilities available for treatment are given to the persons concerned. Printed cards are available for this purpose and display notices are also exhibited in the vicinity of the Port.

IX. Cases of Notifiable and other Infectious Diseases on Ships.

TABLE D.

Category.	Disease.	Number of cases during the year.		Number of ships concerned.
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases landed from other ships.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil.

X. Observations on the occurrence of Malaria in Ships

None.

XI. Measures taken against Ships infected with or suspected for Plague.

None necessary

XII. Measures against Rodents in Ships from Foreign Ports

Poole is a "Designated Approved Port" for the issue of Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates in accordance with Article 17 of the international Sanitary Regulations, 1951, and Articles 19,20 and 21 of the Port Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952, are enforced in the Port. Both the Port Sanitary Inspector and the Deputy Port Sanitary Inspector have been trained in deratisation procedure.

1. During routine inspections of ships by the Port Sanitary Inspectors, masters and crew are interrogated as to the presence of rats and the ship in general and the crew's quarters in particular are examined for evidence of infestation. Where evidence is found or suspected a detailed search of the ship (including the holds) is made by the Rodent Officer who endeavours to secure one or more rats for bacteriological and pathological examination. Whenever a Deratting or Deratting Exemption Certificate is found to be out of date, or a certificate is needed, a detailed inspection and search of the ship is carried out jointly by the Port Sanitary Inspector and the Rodent Officer before a certificate is issued or renewed.
A similar procedure is adopted before the issue or renewal of Rodent Control Certificates for coastal ships.

2. Bacteriological and pathological examinations of rodents are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, Bournemouth, (Director, G.J.G. King, M.B., B.Ch.) In one instance only were rats found on a ship inspected in the port during the year. Three black rats from this ship were submitted for bacteriological and pathological examination. None showed any evidence of rodent plague infection.

3. Small infestations of rats on ships are dealt with directly ~~with~~ by the Rodent Officer, using standard trapping and baiting methods. Major infestations requiring large scale fumigations are carried out by any one of the commercial contractors on the Authority's list, the arrangements being made direct by the owners or agents.

4. Every effort is made by the Port Sanitary Inspectors to secure improvement in the rat-proofing of ships where harbourage is found on inspection but, except in the cases of those ships based on the Port, very few opportunities arise for improvement of structures owing to the very short stay in the port of the ships.

TABLE E.

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

Category	Number
Black rats	5
Brown rats	Nil
Species not known	Nil
Sent for examination ...	3
Infected with Plague ...	Nil

The number of rats destroyed during the year in warehouses, etc., on the Quays was 208.

TABLE F.

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

No. of Deratting Certificates issued					Number of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued.	Total Certificates issued.
After fumigation with						
H.C.N.	Other Fumigant (State Method)	After Trapping.	After Poisoning.	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	25	25

Rodent Control Certificates.

No Rodent Control Certificates were issued during the year.

XIII. Inspection of Ships for Nuisances.

TABLE G.

Inspection and Notices.

Nature and number of Inspections		Notices served		Result of Serving Notices
		Statutory Notices	Other Notices.	
Routine Inspections ...	198	-	7	Abated 4; Outstanding when ship left, 3.
Re-Inspections	32	-	-	-
Re water supplies ...	12	-	-	-
Infectious Diseases ...	Nil	-	-	-
Searches by Rodent Officer	33	-	-	-
Total ...	275	-	7	-

x XIV. Public Health (Shell Fish) Regulations, 1934 and 1948.

Shell-fishing is carried on commercially in the harbour on a small scale. In the past takings have been mainly of cockles, with some periwinkles and whelks. Cockles are chiefly obtained in commercial quantities from the southern and western parts of the harbour, areas which routine sampling over the past six years has shewn to be free from serious pollution. On the other hand, members of the general public frequently gather cockles from the developed and more built-up northern and eastern shores of the harbour where occasional pollution is more likely during period of heavy rainfall owing to the presence of several sewer storm-water overflows.

Efforts are now being made by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Experimental Station to resusitate the cultivation of mussels in the harbour and a mussel cleansing tank has already been constructed on the shore at Hamworthy for the purification of raw mussels from the harbour. Another plant for the heat treatment and pickling of cooked mussels has been opened in the area. At the time of writing both these plants are still in the experimental stage but results so far have been satisfactory.

Mussels are gross feeders and some of the largest beds are situated in the eastern area of the harbour which may be liable to pollution from the discharge of sewage into Poole Bay. No prohibited area has been prescribed in the harbour but observation and sampling is being maintained to determine the extent of pollution involved.

Since 1951 the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Experimental Station have been cultivating experimentally several beds of oysters in the western areas of the harbour and small quantities of these have been sold after bacteriological examination. So far oysters dredged have all been Class I.

An order of the Southern Sea Fisheries Committee prohibits the dredging of oysters from the harbour except under a licence from the Committee and this only after purification by relaying in prescribed areas.

Results of bacteriological examination of shellfish

obtained from Poole Harbour in 1955.

Shellfish.	No. of Samples.	Class I - Satisfactory		Class II Suspicious.	Class III Unsatisfactory.
		0.faecal coli per 1 ml. of shellfish.	1-5 faecal coli per 1 ml of shellfish.	6-14 faecal coli per 1 ml of shellfish.	15 or over faecal coli per 1 ml of shellfish.
Cockles	54	47	6	1	-
Mussels	20	18	2	-	-
Oysters	* 48	37	11	-	-
Total.	122	102	19	-	-

* Single oysters examined individually.

40 single mussels examined individually by the Public Health Laboratory, Boscombe, for Dr. H.A. Cole of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Experimental Station during May, 1955, gave the following results :-

0 faecal coli per 1 ml. of shell fish - 14.
1-5 " " " " " " - 14.
6-14 " " " " " " - 7.
15 or over " " " " " - 5.

x XV. Medical Inspection of Aliens.

Not applicable.

x XVI. Miscellaneous

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease. The Town Mortuary is available near the Quay and no difficulty would arise in arranging burial in one of the Local Authority Cemeteries.

Pollution of the Harbour.

The waters of Poole Harbour are subject to some degree of sewage pollution from a number of sources. Probably the principal source is the discharge into Poole Bay of the sewage of the three towns situated on the shores of the bay but the extent to which this affects the waters of the harbour has not been determined. Efforts have been made by Poole Corporation to obtain the co-operation of the other two authorities concerned in the carrying out of a scheme to divert the sewage of the three areas away from the sea front for treatment elsewhere and this is still under consideration.

During the past two or three years the condition of the effluent being discharged into Holes Bay has given rise to considerable anxiety, but these works are now in process of reconstruction and a very considerable improvement in the condition of the effluent is to be expected when this work has been completed.

A number of other minor sources of pollution are known and observations are being maintained on these.

In conjunction with the Chief Fishery Officer of the Southern Seas Fisheries District, efforts are being continued to trace all sources of chemical pollution of the harbour. A number of sources are known and these are being sampled regularly to determine if the discharges are inimical to fish life.